

THAT WHICH IS CLAIMED:

1. A method of joining and sealing conduits, comprising:
5 mounting edge trim and a retaining element upon an end of a conduit, wherein the edge trim has a ridge extending outwardly therefrom, such that the retaining element is further from the end of the conduit than the ridge; extending a sleeve between the conduits, such that one end of the sleeve covers the ridge on the edge trim; and
10 sliding the retaining element over the sleeve and toward the ridge, such that a portion of the sleeve is sandwiched between the retaining element and the ridge.
2. The method of claim 1, wherein mounting edge trim comprises
15 bonding the edge trim to the conduit.
3. The method of claim 1, wherein sliding the retaining element over the sleeve comprises compressing the sleeve within the retaining element and displacing the sleeve material to expand on either side of the retaining
20 element.
4. The method of claim 3, wherein sliding the retaining element over the sleeve comprises positioning the retaining element such that the retaining element is prevented from moving past the ridge toward the end of the conduit
25 and at least partially restrained from moving away from the ridge due to the displaced sleeve material on a side of retaining element opposite the ridge.
5. The method of claim 1, further comprising attaching at least one tie
30 member to the retaining element to lock the retaining element to another retaining element mounted upon an end of another conduit, such that the retaining elements are prevented from moving past the ridge and prevented from moving away from the ridge.

6. The method of claim 1, further comprising continuing to seal the edge trim, sleeve and retaining element joint as the shape of the conduit experiences deflection due to internal pressure.

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